

The Moon

27.3 days is how long it takes the Moon to rotate on its axis and to orbit the Earth. This is why we always see the same face of the Moon.

107 degrees Celsius is the maximum temperature of the Moon on its sunny side. That's hot enough to boil water.

384,400 kilometres is the average distance of the Moon from the Earth.

3.8 centimetres is how much further away the Moon gets from the Earth each year.

9 years is how long it would take to walk to the Moon at an average walking speed of 4.8 kilometres per hour.

4.5 billion years is the age of the Moon.

442,500 dollars were paid for just 0.2 grams of Moon dust in 1993.

1.3 seconds is how long it takes for light to travel from the Moon to the Earth.

2 high tides occur every day on every coastal beach on Earth because of the Moon's pull on the oceans.

20 seconds worth of landing fuel was all that remained when Apollo 11 finally touched down on the Moon after a 4-day journey from the Earth.

370 moon rocks were brought back by the Apollo missions, a series of trips into space, and given as presents. 270 were given to the countries of the world and 100 were given to the 50 states of the USA.

184 of the moon rocks given as presents have gone missing.

6 of the famous Apollo space missions landed men on the Moon. These were Apollos 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

2 golf balls were struck by Apollo 14 astronaut Alan Shepard, while standing on the Moon.

1 small step for man, **1** giant leap for mankind. These were the words spoken by an astronaut called Neil Armstrong when he became the first man to walk on the Moon.

3 Lunar Roving Vehicles have carried astronauts across the Moon's surface.

4,700 metres is the height of Mons Huygens, the tallest mountain on the Moon (just over half as high as Mount Everest).

13 kilometres is the depth of the Moon's deepest crater.

13 per cent of people who took part in a 1988 survey actually thought the Moon was made of cheese!

3,474 kilometres is the diameter of the Moon. The Earth's diameter is 12,742 kilometres, making it over 3.5 times bigger.

8 phases of the Moon complete its cycle. These are: new Moon, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full Moon, waning gibbous, third quarter and waning crescent. The cycle then begins all over again.

6 kilograms of weight on Earth would only weigh 1 kilogram on the Moon.

2,500 kilometres is the width of the widest craters on the Moon.

29.5 days is how long it takes to get from one full moon to the next. This is called the lunar cycle.

72.5 million kilometres around the Sun is the distance the Earth travels while the Moon makes 1 orbit of the Earth.

-233 degrees Celsius is the temperature at the coldest points on the Moon, at the bottom of craters which are always in shadow and never get any sunlight.

4 other moons in the Solar System are bigger than our Moon.

50 Moons could fit inside the Earth if it was hollow.

Fabulous Feasts

65 hard-boiled eggs were eaten in 6 minutes and 40 seconds by a competitive eater called Sonya Thomas.

20,000 people hurl 120,000 kilograms of tomatoes at each other during the annual food fight in Buñol in Spain.

3,600 kilograms of krill (a small, shrimp-like creature) is a blue whale's daily diet.

4 animals are used for the main dish at wedding feasts of the Bedouin people. The dish is a roast camel stuffed with a whole roast sheep, stuffed with a chicken, stuffed with fish, stuffed with eggs. Phew!

30 minutes was all it took Britain's Queen Victoria to eat her way through 7 courses at her banquets. All the plates were cleared each time she finished a course, so the guests had to try to keep up with her.

1 glass of wine allowed Cleopatra, an Egyptian queen, to win a bet with the Romans to see who could hold the most expensive banquet. She simply dissolved her expensive pearl earring in a glass of wine, and then drank it.

6,464 kilograms of gingerbread were used by a chef called Roger Pelcher to build a huge gingerbread house. He also used 2,155 kilograms of icing, 1,800 chocolate bars and thousands of sweets.

12 dishes representing the signs of the zodiac were part of a feast described in a book called the Satyricon by an ancient Roman writer, alongside dormice, a hare with wings and a whole calf wearing a helmet.

60.3 metres was the length of a single hot dog made by the Shizuoka Meat Producers of Japan. That is as long as 34 adult men lying head-to-toe.

600 ostriches were used to make ostrich pies for a huge feast given by the Roman Emperor Elagabalus.

10 tonnes was the weight of a single curry cooked by the Eastern Eye restaurant in England.

269 elephants ate 50 tonnes of fruit and vegetables during an elephant parade held in Thailand in 2003.

42 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were eaten in just 10 minutes by Patrick Bertoletti in 2007.

6,014 seats are available in Syria's Damascus Gate Restaurant, so there's no need to reserve a table.

50,000 kilograms of fish can be eaten during the Helsinki Herring Fair, held in Finland to celebrate the end of the fishing season.

45 million turkeys are eaten in 1 day in the USA during Thanksgiving.

22,295 officials feasted at The Banquet of Mayors, held in Paris in 1900. 3,600 chefs were needed to prepare all the food.

24 hours was all it took for the ancient Romans to transport fresh oysters from north-west France to Rome via a network of chilled carts. Fresh oysters were prized as a delicacy.

7,395 metres above ground was the height of the dinner party held in a hot-air balloon by 3 men in England in 2005. They dressed in formal dinner clothes and dined on poached salmon at temperatures as low as -50 degrees Celsius.

2,000 sheep were eaten at a feast to celebrate a meeting between the English and French kings. It was held at a place known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520, and the feasting lasted for a whole month.

9,852 slices of toast were used to make a giant toast mosaic of a woman's face. The picture was made by toasting the bread so that it created different shades, ranging from white, to light brown, to dark brown, to black.

4 kilometres was the length of the tables at a street party in China in 2008. 3,050 tables were placed end-to-end for the diners to sit at.

9,137 litres of coffee filled a huge coffee mug in Las Vegas. That's enough for over 32,000 normal-sized cups of coffee.

32,681 people sat down and drank a cup of tea together at a huge tea party held in India.

7,500 varieties of apple are grown throughout the world.

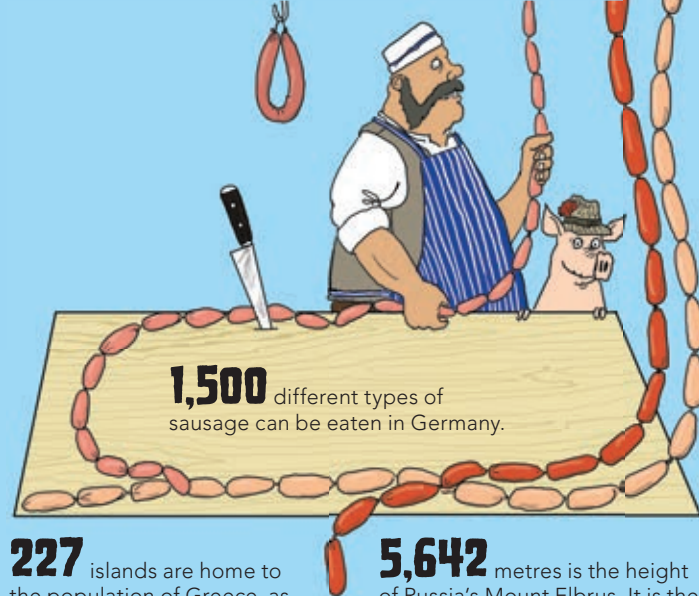
7 kilograms of garlic was what it cost to buy a healthy male slave in ancient Egypt – this shows that garlic was really valuable!

37.4 metres was the diameter of a pizza made in South Africa in 1990. That's about 4 times longer than a London bus.

Europe

10 European countries have monarchs. The European royal families are in Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

7 countries are home to the Alps mountain range. These are Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Liechtenstein, Germany, France and Slovenia.



227 islands are home to the population of Greece, as well as the Greek mainland itself.

5,642 metres is the height of Russia's Mount Elbrus. It is the highest mountain in Europe.

26 per cent of Holland lies below sea level and 60 per cent of the population live in this area. The sea is kept at bay by 2,400 kilometre-long embankments called dykes.

1 million underwater wooden supports called piles are thought to support a church called the Santa Maria della Salute in Venice, Italy. The piles are needed for buildings as the city was built over the sea.

6 European countries have German as an official language: Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Belgium and Liechtenstein.



2.25 billion seeds can be stored at the Global Seed Vault on the remote Norwegian island of Svalbard. The seeds are stored at -18 degrees Celsius and can last hundreds or even thousands of years. This means that the world has seeds in safe storage should there ever be a global catastrophe.

50 countries make up the continent of Europe.

53 per cent of Europeans speak more than one language.



35 volcanoes are active on the small island of Iceland.

3 European countries insist cars are driven on the left-hand side of the road – the United Kingdom, Ireland and Cyprus.

400 ships pass through the Dover Strait – a narrow stretch of sea between England and France – every single day.

8,400 square kilometres is the size of Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier. It is in Iceland, and has an average ice thickness of 900 metres.



This means Europe has both the largest and the smallest countries in the world.

3,530 kilometres is the length of Russia's River Volga, from source to sea. It's the longest river in Europe.

4 European countries lie partly in the Arctic Circle. These are Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland.



50 kilometres is the length of a railway tunnel, called the Channel Tunnel, which connects England with France. 38 kilometres of the tunnel is under the sea.



56 per cent of the water used by the people of Malta, a Mediterranean island, has to be produced from sea water (using a process called desalination). The country has no rivers at all.

225 European languages are spoken.

90 per cent of Europe was once covered by forests. Today, the figure is only 33 per cent.

100 per cent of Iceland's heating and electricity comes from renewable sources. Most comes from hydro (water) power, but some is generated from the heat inside the Earth and is called geothermal power.

9 countries share a border with Germany. These are: Denmark, the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands.

0 deserts are in Europe, making it the only continent in the world not to have one.

The Titanic

269.1 metres was the length of the Titanic – longer than 2.5 full-sized football pitches.

3,423 sacks of letters and parcels were carried onboard the Titanic. They were looked after by the ship's own post office, staffed by 5 workers.

94 per cent of the women and children who were travelling in first class survived the sinking of the Titanic.

22.5 knots (41.6 kilometres per hour) was the cruising speed of the Titanic just before it struck an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean.

1 indoor heated swimming pool was found on board, one of the first of its kind.

15 pounds, **10** shillings was the cost of the transatlantic trip for a servant of a first-class passenger. That's more than £600 in today's money.

473 third-class passengers could eat in the sparse, simple dining room. They were served bread, fresh fruit and simple meals such as roast beef and boiled potatoes.

73 years after sinking, the wreck of the Titanic was discovered on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

11 courses, including oysters, roast duckling and chocolate eclairs, were served to first class passengers on the night that the Titanic hit an iceberg.

0 passenger lifeboat drills were carried out during the Titanic's voyage.

64,000 pounds was the price that a lunch menu from the Titanic was sold for at auction.

15 tonnes was the weight of the Titanic's largest anchor – around the same weight as 10 motor cars.

3 of the ship's **4** giant funnels actually worked. 1 of them was fake and was added to make the ship look more impressive.

53.3 metres was the height of the Titanic. That's the same as a 17-storey building.

8 musicians made up the Titanic's orchestra which played every night.

825 tonnes of coal were used by the ship's engines every day the Titanic sailed.

100 cases of shelled walnuts, 117 cases of sponges and 856 rolls of lino floor covering were amongst the cargo carried on the Titanic.

9 week-old Millvina Dean was the youngest passenger on board the Titanic. She survived the disaster and lived to the ripe old age of 97.

40,000 eggs were carried in the kitchens of the ship for the voyage along with over 1,200 kilograms of sausages, 1,000 loaves and 4,535 kilograms of cereal.

10,000 lightbulbs lit up the ship's many rooms, decks and corridors.

2 libraries were on the ship. One was for first-class passengers and the other for second-class travellers.

6 people slept in bunk beds in a single cabin when travelling third-class.

2 bath tubs (1 for men, 1 for women) were all that was available for the 700 third-class passengers on the ship.

157 minutes after it struck the iceberg, the Titanic's hull broke into 2 parts.

20 lifeboats were carried on the ship but they only provided enough space for half of the passengers and crew on board.

Super Snakes



5-centimetre-long fangs make the gaboon viper truly fearsome.

100 metres is the distance that the paradise tree snake can glide through the air, making it look like it's flying.

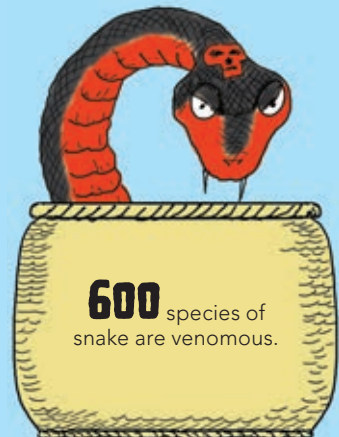
1 in every **500** people living in the Ryuku islands in the Pacific is bitten by a snake every year.



110 milligrams of venom from an inland taipan is enough to finish off 100 people, or 250,000 mice.

30 minutes is how long a Burmese python can stay underwater without coming up for air.

120 of the **180** species of snake in Australia are venomous.

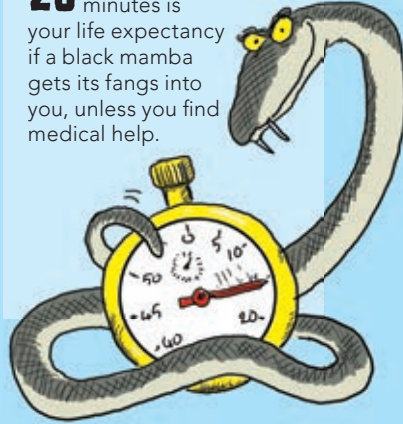


600 species of snake are venomous.

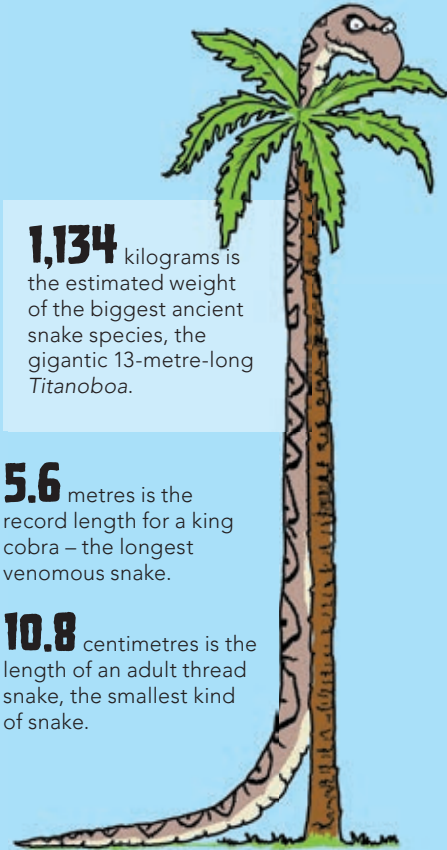


2,500 species of snake are harmless.

20 minutes is your life expectancy if a black mamba gets its fangs into you, unless you find medical help.



1,134 kilograms is the estimated weight of the biggest ancient snake species, the gigantic 13-metre-long Titanoboa.



5.6 metres is the record length for a king cobra – the longest venomous snake.

10.8 centimetres is the length of an adult thread snake, the smallest kind of snake.



7.67 metres was the length reached by one enormous reticulated python.

1/3 of a king cobra's body can be lifted off the ground to attack its large prey.



30 per cent of snake species give birth to live babies.



5 hours or more are needed for a python to swallow its prey.

12 hours is how long it can take for you to feel the effects of a bite from the very venomous coral snake.

80 eggs may be laid by a female python in one batch.

60 centimetres is the size of a baby green anaconda just after it's born. It will grow to up to 9 metres in length.

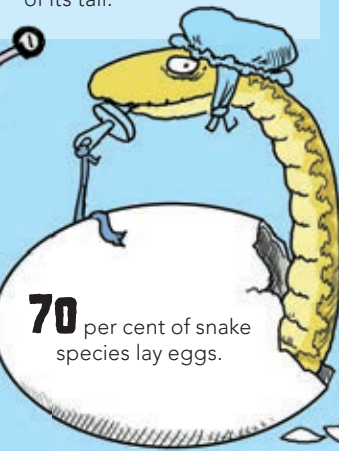
4 weeks after a big dinner, a boa constrictor starts to think about its next meal.

5 years is the record amount of time a type of Asian viper can go without food.

100 per cent of snakes are meat eaters.



60 times per second is the speed a rattlesnake can shake the rattle on the end of its tail.



70 per cent of snake species lay eggs.



450 small bones make up the spine of a snake.

100 kilometres was the length of a line of sea snakes that was spotted in 1932. Millions of the snakes were swimming together.

I THINK SOMEBODY'S FOLLOWING ME ...